

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1-16 are currently amended and claims 18-19 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-17 and 20-22 are pending, and claims 18-19 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 4-6, 13-16 and 18 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 13 have been rewritten to be in independent form, so it is believed that claims 4-6 and 13-16 are now allowable. The subject matter of claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 1 as discussed below.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the meaning of the claims terms should be readily apparent from the context. For example, "signals" is a generic term that refers to the signals detected by the signal detector, whereas "first and second signals" refer to species of the signals detected by the signal detector. The other uses of the word "signal," in the singular or the plural, is determined by its adjacent wording as the signal provided by the control unit to change a gear in the bicycle transmission, whether upshifting or downshifting as the claim requires.

As for claims 3, 9 and 12, those and other claims have been amended to clarify that the time intervals correspond to values that pass or are greater or less than the appropriate shift threshold value, rather than the time interval itself passing or being greater or less than a shift threshold value. Of course, in some instances a shift threshold value may be expressed as a time value, and the claims would cover those values as well.

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 17 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ethington (US 5,599,244). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim allowable 18.

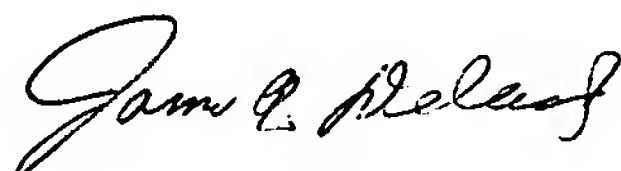
Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in

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condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.
Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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